

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA
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UNCLAS LONDON 08541

E. O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PINS, SOPN, BU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONER STEFAN VLADIMIROV GUSENKO
REF: SOFIA 1000

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BY CLIFFORD LONGLEY
ON BULGARIAN POLITICAL PRISONER GUSENKO:

"STEFAN WLADIMIROV GUSEHKO WAS JAILED IN BULGARIA
IN 1976 FOR THREE YEARS. HE HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF
'INCITING MISTRUST AMONGST THE PEOPLE' AND 'DISSEMINATING
DEROGATORY STATEMENTS THAT HARM THE SOCIAL ORDER.'

THE CHARGES WERE BASED ON THE FACT THAT HE HAD
IN HIS POSSESSION WESTERN LITERATURE, DESCRIBED BY THE
AUTHORITIES AS 'ANTI-COMMUNIST LITERATURE,' AND DIS-
TRIBUTED IT AMONG HIS FRIENDS.

IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS CRITICAL
PRIVATELY OF CONDITIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN
BULGARIA AND IT IS THOUGHT LIKELY THAT HIS VIEWS BECAME
KNOWN TO THE POLICE.

HE IS 50 YEARS OLD AND AN ELECTRICIAN BY TRADE.
HE IS MARRIED WITH TWO//CHILDREN, AGED 12 AND 15.
BETWEEN HIS ARREST IN SEPTEMBER 1976 AND HIS TRIAL IN
DECEMBER THAT YEAR, HE WAS KEPT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
IN SOFIA AND HIS FAMILY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO VISIT HIM.

SINCE HIS ARREST, HIS WIFE AND RELATIVES HAVE
BEEN KEPT UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE AND HAVE BEEN
HARASSED BY THE POLICE."

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PAGE 02 LONDON 08541 311446Z

BREWSTER

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